

## THE PLOT THICKENS

The Spirit of the French Press—The Flager of the German Prince Detected in the Pic—The British Sovereign's Health—Rumors that She will Abolish the Throne.

PARIS, June 11.—The plot of the Franco-Chinese drama daily thickens. The thrill of martial ardor that flashed through France at the news of the fate of the gallant Riviere is now tempered by apprehension of the possible consequences. The react-

onary and radical papers predict that the Republic will find a Mexico in China, and wit the Republic with having sent a spirited naval commander to Tonquin to conduct diplomatic negotiations and with now sending a civilian, Dr. Harm-

AN ENEMY'S WORK.

the isolation of France, is the object of France's most bitter enemy, China offers the means for the accomplishment of such an end. With China organized for war and threatening an invasion Russia would be forced to employ a vast army in protecting her own frontier in Asia, and for offensive purposes Europe would be powerless.

That such a role is contemplated for China was already clearly indicated in the semi-official *Deutsche Zeitung* at the time of the Kuldja difficulty four years ago. Since then China has been inundated with German military instruction, German steel munitions and Krupp guns. "To-day Germany encourages us in a most friendly

anner to measure our strength with China, and our Government fulfills the wishes of Berlin by alienating the very power upon whose good will depends the European strength of our only ally." The *Mail* concludes by saying: "It is better that France should follow the example of Russia herself, when placed in an analogous position in the Kuldja affair. She droittly yielded to the demand of China,

PRIVATEERING.

The *Patrie* declares that the greatest danger in a war with China is the fact that China will have perfect liberty to issue letters of marque to American privateers, who, unlike the European powers, are exempt from the obligations of the Congress of Paris of 1856, and who, tempted by the bait, would prey upon French commerce in all parts of the world. They will do so

under the legal protection of a strip of yellow bunting and a bit of paper bearing the Chinese official characters. Henri Rocher says that financial speculation is at the bottom of the expedition, which he describes as *la conquête de cette loison d'or et autres métaux pour laquelle sont partis les Armées du peristyle de la Bourse*.

A CRY FOR REVENGE.

Meanwhile warlike preparations continue

Toulon, and the republican papers declare that the Marquis Tseng, by recognizing the treaty of 1874, which hands over a portion of the Annam territory to the tu-

lage of France, admits that China has no claims to the suzerainty of Annam. The *Temps* is firmly convinced that China's action is purely platonic and that there will be no war. It says: "Resistance against us Tonquin has no root in the country itself. The Annam forces are recruited solely from bands of Chinese and Annamite adventurers, whom misfortune has pushed in thousands into the basin of the Red

WAR MAPS AND ART TREASURES.

ons of silver mines, copper, mines, quicksilver mines and gold mines. The *Figaro* this morning publishes an artistically gotten up bird's-eye map of Tonquin, Annam and China; together with a lively *croquis* of electoral statesmen and incidents. The *aulois* gives the biography of Li Hung hang. Nevertheless the upper ten thousand give signs of weariness when the Chi-

the question is broached. Chinese porcelains, jades, bronzes and grotesque idols continue to adorn the *salons* of the Faubourg Saint-Germain and the Champs Elysees, and to appeal to the Parisian sense of the beautiful. But a nearer acquaintance with Chinese politics and the *pavillons noirs*, with wars and rumors of wars, is voted bore.

**WILL SHE ABDICATE.**  
**The Extent of Queen Victoria's Injuries.**  
**Reported Abdication.**  
WASHINGTON, June 11.—A journal says:  
representative of one of the prominent  
European powers tells that a very serious  
event is impending in England, which is  
the abdication of the Queen. The reasons

ven for this most unexpected course are Her Majesty's fast failing health and increased unwillingness, and sometimes inability on her part, to perform the duties incident to government. For some years the Queen has been a mild believer in spiritualism. She thought the spirit of her dead husband used to assist her in working out the questions which perplexed and sometimes annoyed her. Since the death

her favorite servant, John Brown, who has been very much depressed, and finally it was necessary to remove her to Malmo, where some of her happiest days were spent with the lover and husband of her youth. I am told that some very pathetic scenes took place at her last visit here. She seemed to feel the actual presence of her dead Prince, and talked as though he were by her side. This, and

her occurrences, frightened and alarmed her daughter Beatrice very greatly, and she insisted that some of the other members of the family should come down at once. It was telegraphed from London by the ambassador of a great power to his sovereign on Wednesday last that the abdication of the Queen of England was impending and would probably occur very soon. From any other than this most reliable source, the news would be of little value.

ble source it would be doubted. The Queen has clung to the visible endowments of the throne with such tenacity that she must have greatly changed before the thought was bearable, but the breaking down of her health has been followed by melancholia of the most pronounced type. It seems to be not generally known that the trouble with the Queen's knee came from a large ulcer of a scrofulous and cancerous nature.

In the House of Lords yesterday the bill legalizing the marriage with a deceased wife's sister passed a second reading by a vote of 165 to 150.

It is stated the basis of peace between Peru and Chili was of the most honorable chiefs of the Peruvian army, and that there are hopes of an early adjustment of political relations with Bolivia.